

**From:** [Matt Kales](#)  
**To:** [Noreen Walsh](#); [Michael Thabault](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Revised draft: state planning status briefing for SecInt  
**Date:** Saturday, November 23, 2013 2:53:42 PM  
**Attachments:** [FWS GrSG timeline revised 112213 draft 3.docx](#)

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Yes, that makes sense to me. I've attached a revised timeline reflecting same. Let me know if this works. Thanks.

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**From:** Noreen Walsh [mailto:[noreen\\_walsh@fws.gov](mailto:noreen_walsh@fws.gov)]  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 23, 2013 2:44 PM  
**To:** Matt Kales; Michael Thabault  
**Subject:** RE: Revised draft: state planning status briefing for SecInt

Got it.

One question: don't we want to provide our fatal flaw assessment before they hand off proposed finals to the Govs? This has us doing it right after not before.  
(March 2014)

Noreen Walsh  
Regional Director  
Mountain-Prairie Region  
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

303 236 7920

***The Mountain-Prairie Region of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service:** We provide conservation stewardship of some of America's most scenic lands, to ensure healthy fish and wildlife for the enjoyment and benefit of all people.*

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**From:** Matt Kales [mailto:[matt\\_kales@fws.gov](mailto:matt_kales@fws.gov)]  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 23, 2013 12:06 PM  
**To:** Noreen Walsh  
**Subject:** FW: Revised draft: state planning status briefing for SecInt  
**Importance:** High

Please let me know if this doesn't open and we'll try something else. Will call you shortly to discuss/address your edits to the state plan status briefing doc. Thanks.

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**From:** Matt Kales [mailto:[matt\\_kales@fws.gov](mailto:matt_kales@fws.gov)]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 22, 2013 12:31 PM  
**To:** Noreen Walsh  
**Cc:** Michael Thabault; Pat Deibert; Jesse DElia  
**Subject:** RE: Revised draft: state planning status briefing for SecInt  
**Importance:** High

You bet. Please see attached a revised version that captures your feedback (through Mike) and y/our other, earlier edits. Pat has kindly offered to take the ball from here, so please send any final edits to her for collating/revision.

Got one more loose end to tie up on the SecInt briefing and will send same shortly. Thanks.

Matt

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**From:** Noreen Walsh [[mailto:noreen\\_walsh@fws.gov](mailto:noreen_walsh@fws.gov)]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 22, 2013 12:19 PM  
**To:** Matt Kales  
**Cc:** Michael Thabault  
**Subject:** RE: Revised draft: state planning status briefing for SecInt

Thank you Matt. I will be tackling this as soon we finish the meeting today.  
Thanks for pulling this all together so quickly and I hope you enjoy the rest of the day.

Noreen Walsh  
Regional Director  
Mountain-Prairie Region  
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

303 236 7920

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**From:** Matt Kales [[mailto:matt\\_kales@fws.gov](mailto:matt_kales@fws.gov)]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 21, 2013 8:21 PM  
**To:** Noreen Walsh  
**Cc:** Michael Thabault  
**Subject:** Revised draft: state planning status briefing for SecInt

Hi,

Please see attached the subject doc, revised to include UT's input. I re-sent the tasking and template to WA and R1 be: I saw some traffic that indicated they intended to re-submit the related but informal feedback we solicited last week. Please let me know if you have edits on the existing content, which I'll make while we wait on the last template. Thanks.

Matt

**Matt Kales**  
Special Assistant for Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation  
Office of the Regional Director  
US Fish and Wildlife Service, Mountain-Prairie Region  
Office: (303) 236-4576  
Mobile: (720) 234-0257

FWS Greater Sage-grouse Draft Timeline (as of 11/14/13):

**Now:** Working with federal partners, state partners, energy industry and private entities to conserve sage-grouse

**Ongoing** – Verbal and written feedback given to federal and state entities per agreed-upon communication protocol from the Federal Family meeting.

**Winter 2013** – Draft project plan for FWS listing determination process identifying staffing, roles and responsibilities, draft team structure, goals and objectives, identify resource needs, and begin to outline the schedule, deliverable documents, expert panel workshops, additional expertise, format for analyzing information, format and process for developing and finalizing decision recommendations.

**Dec. 2013** – All BLM/FS draft RMPs available for public comment.

**Dec. 2013** – Governor's Task Force common conservation metrics development process complete. If the TF cannot resolve then FWS, together with BLM and FS, will select and finalize metrics. (See attached white paper on relationship of metrics and criteria).

**Winter 2013-2014** - Complete design of Conservation Efforts Database.

**Jan. 2014** – States have indicated that their plans should be completed.

**Feb. 2014** - Conservation Efforts Database open for populating conservation action by federal, state, local and private entities; coordinate data call for annual candidate notice of review (CNOR) and initiate data call for the 2015 determination. Ask states to input data and test Conservation Efforts Database.

**Feb. 2014** – All comment periods completed for BLM/FS draft RMP amendments and revisions. FWS will have delivered narrative comments and threats matrices (for each EIS) to BLM with explicit concerns raised at the individual plan level. FWS will also be providing verbal and then written comments on what needs to be included in a final proposed alternative to meet the COT objectives.

**Feb. 2014** – Federal agencies meet to discuss planning effort and roll-up/roll-out. Preliminary assessment of outstanding issues could be delivered at this time.

**Mar. 2014** – ~~Preliminary federal plans delivered to Governors.~~ BLM/FS to provide draft cumulative effects analyses to FWS for fatal flaw review. This analysis should include cumulative effects at the population, WAFWA management zone, and range-wide scales. FWS will identify specific issues yet to be resolved at each scale based on information provided and any other information available to us. Note: it is critical the CE and related information from

BLM/FS be available to FWS in order to conduct a timely and accurate assessment of the efficacy of the overall planning effort.

March, 2014: Per finalized timeline from September, 2013 Federal Family meeting: preliminary federal plans delivered to Governors. Note: to the maximum extent practicable, these plans will fully address outstanding issues/fatal flaws as identified by FWS in previous 2 steps.

**Spring/Summer 2014** – Work with BLM/FS to finalize RMP amendments and revisions.

**May 2014** – Final EISs are complete and released to the public

**June 2014** – Final candidate assessment update due to FWS HQ.

**Summer/Fall 2014** – Host expert panels regarding topics with significant uncertainty or where expert panels would improve the analysis

- Using SDM and other structured processes, we anticipate convening several expert workshops to seek scientific input and analysis including a discussion of current and future affects to the species and habitat. This could be particularly useful in areas where there is uncertainty (e.g. climate change, invasive species/fire cycles and predictions, genetics).

**Summer/Fall 2014** – Through facilitated discussions, evaluate potential for areas to be discrete and significant to the species including the Columbia basin population in Washington. Evaluate factors affecting those areas and their status later, during the range-wide analysis.

**Sept. 2014** – BLM/FS final plans and Records of Decisions are due. Final state plans should also be completed.

**Fall 2014** – Current BLM proposed plan-specific cumulative assessments and range-wide landscape assessment complete. These two pieces are essential for FWS evaluation range-wide. (See March 2014 reference.)

**Fall 2014** – Complete analysis on Columbia Basin population (spec., is it a valid DPS of the species?).

**Winter 2014** – Complete analysis of non-habitat based concerns (disease, predation, genetics, etc.).

**NLT Dec. 2014** – Finalize data input to conservation efforts database (narrative, data in form of common metrics, spatial data)from BLM, FS, NRCS, State, industry and private entities.

**After Jan. 1, 2015** –

FWS analyzes habitat concerns – using SDM and a team-based approach, analyze information regarding habitat-based threats (fragmentation and its sources).

Using this analysis, develop range-wide analysis of the species viability including time horizon of threats, reliability of data, and evaluation of important areas of uncertainty. Finalize species status report and/or other summary of scientific information based on the analysis and information compiled.

**Spring 2015** – FWS will develop and discuss decision recommendations based on relevant information

**Spring 2015** – Once decision recommendations are settled, FWS will develop FR document and will compile and finalize administrative record documents related to each major decision point.

**Sept. 30, 2015** – Proposed listing determination or not warranted finding due the Federal Register.